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## CHARACTERIZATIONS OF SEMIPERFECT AND PERFECT RINGS<sup>(\*)</sup>

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### Abstract

We characterize semiperfect modules, semiperfect rings, and perfect rings using locally projective covers and generalized locally projective covers, where locally projective modules were introduced by Zimmermann-Huisgen and generalized locally projective covers are adapted from Azumaya's generalized projective covers.

### Introduction

Azumaya [A2] introduced the notion of generalized projective covers to characterize semiperfect modules and rings. Adapting his concept, we call a module epimorphism  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  a (*generalized*) *cover* in case  $(\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P)) \text{Ker}(f) \ll P$ . A (*generalized*) *cover*  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  is called a (*generalized*) *projective cover* in case  $P$  is a projective module, and it is called a (*generalized*) *locally projective cover* in case  $P$  is a locally projective module.

This paper consists of three sections. We obtain some basic properties of (*generalized*) covers in Section 1. In Section 2, we characterize (*generalized*) semiperfect modules via (*generalized*) projective covers of the (*generalized*) complements. In Section 3, we characterize semiperfect rings and modules, perfect rings, and quasi-perfect rings [CX], using (*generalized*) locally projective covers.

The terminologies and notations of Anderson and Fuller [AF] will be freely used. We refer the reader to [AF, Section 27, Section 28] for a presentation of semiperfect and perfect rings. Throughout  $R$  is an associative ring with identity whose Jacobson radical is denoted by  $J$ . Unless otherwise stated, modules are unitary left  $R$ -modules, and homomorphisms are left  $R$ -module homomorphisms. If  $M$  is a module, we recall from [AF] that  $\text{Rad}(M)$  denotes the radical of  $M$ , and  $(U \ll M) U \leq M$  means that  $U$  is a (*superfluous*) submodule of  $M$ .

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## 1. Basic properties of (generalized) covers

If  $P$  and  $M$  are modules, we call an epimorphism  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  a (generalized) cover in case  $(\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P)) \text{Ker}(f) \ll P$ . Since  $\text{Rad}(P)$  is the sum of all superfluous submodules of  $P$ , every cover is a generalized cover. We have the following basic properties of (generalized) covers.

**Lemma 1.1.** *If both  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  and  $g : M \longrightarrow N$  are (generalized) covers, then  $gf : P \longrightarrow N$  is a (generalized) cover.*

*Proof:* If both  $f$  and  $g$  are covers, then  $gf$  is a cover by [AF, Proposition 5.17(1)].

Now let both  $f$  and  $g$  be generalized covers. To show  $\text{Ker}(gf) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P)$ , we let  $p \in \text{Ker}(gf)$ . Then  $gf(p) = 0$  and  $f(p) \subseteq \text{Ker}(g) \subseteq \text{Rad}(M)$ . Since  $\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P)$ , it follows from [AF, Proposition 9.15] that  $f(\text{Rad}(P)) = \text{Rad}(M)$ . Hence  $f(p) = f(p')$  for some  $p' \in \text{Rad}(P)$ , so  $p - p' \in \text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P)$ . We obtain  $p \in \text{Rad}(P)$ . ■

**Lemma 1.2.** (1) *If each  $f_i : P_i \longrightarrow M_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) is a cover then  $\oplus_{i=1}^n f_i : \oplus_{i=1}^n P_i \longrightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^n M_i$  is a cover.*

(2) *If each  $f_i : P_i \longrightarrow M_i$  ( $i \in I$ ) is a generalized cover then  $\oplus_{i \in I} f_i : \oplus_{i \in I} P_i \longrightarrow \oplus_{i \in I} M_i$  is a generalized cover.*

*Proof:* (1) Since each  $\text{Ker}(f_i) \ll P_i$  we have  $\text{Ker}(\oplus_{i=1}^n f_i) = \oplus_{i=1}^n \text{Ker}(f_i) \ll \oplus_{i=1}^n P_i$ . So  $\oplus_{i=1}^n f_i$  is a cover.

(2) Since each  $\text{Ker}(f_i) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P_i)$  we have  $\text{Ker}(\oplus_{i \in I} f_i) = \oplus_{i \in I} \text{Ker}(f_i) \subseteq \oplus_{i \in I} \text{Rad}(P_i) = \text{Rad}(\oplus_{i \in I} P_i)$ . So  $\oplus_{i \in I} f_i$  is a generalized cover. ■

**Lemma 1.3.** *Let  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  be a cover. If  $M$  is finitely generated then  $P$  is also finitely generated.*

*Proof:* Since  $P/\text{Ker}(f) \cong M$  is finitely generated, there is a finitely generated submodule  $P'$  of  $P$  such that

$$P' + \text{Ker}(f) = P.$$

Since  $\text{Ker}(f) \ll P$  we have  $P' = P$ . ■

## 2. (Generalized) projective covers and $M$ -projective covers

Let  $M$  be a module. If  $U, U' \leq M$  and  $M = U + U'$  then  $U'$  is called a (generalized) complement of  $U$  in case  $(U \cap U' \subseteq \text{Rad}(U')) U \cap U' \ll U'$ . Clearly, each complement is a generalized complement.

A (generalized) cover  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  is called a (generalized) projective cover in case  $P$  is a projective module. Since every cover is a generalized cover, a projective cover is a generalized projective cover as observed in [A2].

A connection between (generalized) projective covers and (generalized) complements is given as follows.

**Proposition 2.1.** *If  $M$  is a module and  $U \leq M$ , then the following three statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $M/U$  has a (generalized) projective cover.
- (2) If  $V \leq M$  and  $M = U + V$  then  $U$  has a (generalized) complement  $U' \subseteq V$  such that  $U'$  has a (generalized) projective cover.
- (3)  $U$  has a (generalized) complement  $U'$  which has a (generalized) projective cover.

*Proof:* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Let  $f : P \longrightarrow M/U$  be a (generalized) projective cover. Since  $M = U + V$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} g : V & \longrightarrow & M/V \text{ via} \\ v & \longmapsto & v + U \end{array}$$

is an epimorphism. Since  $P$  is projective, there is a homomorphism  $h : P \longrightarrow V$  such that  $f = gh$ . It is easy to see that  $M = U + h(P)$  where  $h(P) \subseteq V$ . Now  $(\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P)) \text{Ker}(f) \ll P$ , so we have

$$U \cap h(P) = h(\text{Ker}(f)) (\subseteq h(\text{Rad}(P)) \subseteq \text{Rad}(h(P))) \ll h(P)$$

and  $h(P)$  is a (generalized) complement of  $U \subseteq V$ . Since  $\text{Ker}(h) \subseteq \text{Ker}(f) (\subseteq \text{Rad}(P)) \ll P$ ,

$$h : P \longrightarrow h(P)$$

is a (generalized) projective cover.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). This is obvious.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Let  $f : P \longrightarrow U'$  be a (generalized) projective cover. Since  $U'$  is a (generalized) complement of  $U$ , the natural epimorphism

$$g : U' \longrightarrow U'/(U \cap U') \xrightarrow{h} (U + U')/U = M/U$$

is a (generalized) cover. Hence  $hgf : P \longrightarrow M/U$  is a (generalized) projective cover by Lemma 1.1. ■

Let  $M$  be a module.  $M$  is called *(generalized) complemented* in case each submodule  $U$  has a (generalized) complement  $U'$ , and it is called *(generalized) amply complemented* in case  $M = U + V$  implies that  $U$  has a (generalized) complement  $U' \subseteq V$ . According to [A2],  $M$  is called *(generalized) semiperfect* in case each factor module of  $M$  has a (generalized) projective cover. Azumaya [A2, Theorem 4] proved that  $M$  is generalized semiperfect if and only if each proper submodule of  $M$  is contained in a maximal submodule of  $M$  and each simple factor module of  $M$  has a generalized projective cover. The next different characterization of (generalized) semiperfect modules follows immediately from Proposition 2.1, where the non-parenthetical version is [F, Theorem 1]. A characterization of semiperfect modules using locally projective covers will be given in the next section.

**Theorem 2.2.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a module  $M$ .*

- (1)  $M$  is *(generalized) semiperfect*.
- (2)  $M$  is *(generalized) amply complemented by complements which have (generalized) projective covers*.
- (3)  $M$  is *(generalized) complemented by complements which have (generalized) projective covers*.

A (generalized) cover  $f : P \longrightarrow M$  is called a *(generalized)  $M$ -projective cover* in case  $P$  is a  $M$ -projective module. Modifying the proof of Proposition 2.1, we have an analogous result.

**Proposition 2.3.** *If  $M$  is a module and  $U \leq M$ , then the following three statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $M/U$  has a *(generalized)  $M$ -projective cover*.
- (2) If  $V \leq M$  and  $M = U + V$  then  $U$  has a *(generalized) complement  $U' \subseteq V$  such that  $U'$  has a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover*.
- (3)  $U$  has a *(generalized) complement  $U'$  which has a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover*.

We call a module  $M$  *(generalized) quasi-semiperfect* in case each factor module of  $M$  has a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover. Now we have the following result by Proposition 2.3.

**Theorem 2.4.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a module  $M$ .*

- (1)  $M$  is *(generalized) quasi-semiperfect*.

- (2)  $M$  is (generalized) amply complemented by complements which have (generalized)  $M$ -projective covers.
- (3)  $M$  is (generalized) complemented by complements which have (generalized)  $M$ -projective covers.

Using an idea of Azumaya's proof given in [A2, Theorem 4] we obtain

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a semilocal ring and  $M$  a finitely generated left  $R$ -module. Then  $M$  is (generalized) quasi-semiperfect if and only if each simple factor module of  $M$  has a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover.*

*Proof:*  $(\Rightarrow)$ . This is obvious.

$(\Leftarrow)$ . Let  $U \leq M$  and  $\overline{M} = M/U$ . Since  $R$  is semilocal and  $\overline{M}$  is finitely generated,  $J\overline{M} = \text{Rad}(\overline{M}) \ll \overline{M}$  and  $\overline{M}/J\overline{M}$  is semisimple. Let  $\overline{M}/J\overline{M} = \oplus_{i=1}^n S_i$  be a direct sum of simple submodules  $S_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). Since each  $S_i$  is isomorphic to a simple factor module of  $M$ , it has a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover  $f_i : P_i \rightarrow S_i$  where  $(\text{Ker}(f_i) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P_i) = JP_i) \text{Ker}(f_i) \ll P_i$ . Since  $P_i/\text{Ker}(f_i) \cong S_i$  is simple,  $\text{Ker}(f_i)$  is a maximal submodule of  $P$  and so  $(\text{Ker}(f_i) = JP_i) \text{Ker}(f_i) = JP_i \ll P_i$ . By Lemma 1.2,

$$f = \oplus_{i=1}^n f_i : P = \oplus_{i=1}^n P_i \rightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^n S_i = \overline{M}/J\overline{M}$$

is a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover, where  $(\text{Ker}(f) = JP) \text{Ker}(f) = JP \ll P$ . Let  $g : \overline{M} \rightarrow \overline{M}/J\overline{M}$  be the natural epimorphism. Since  $P$  is  $M$ -projective, there is a homomorphism  $h : P \rightarrow \overline{M}$  such that  $f = gh$ . Now  $f$  is an epimorphism and  $\text{Ker}(g) = J\overline{M} \ll \overline{M}$ , it follows from [AF, Corollary 5.15] that  $h$  is an epimorphism. Since  $(\text{Ker}(h) \subseteq \text{Ker}(f) = JP) \text{Ker}(h) \subseteq \text{Ker}(f) = JP \ll P$ , we see that

$$h : P \rightarrow \overline{M}$$

is a (generalized)  $M$ -projective cover. Hence  $M$  is a (generalized) quasi-semiperfect module. ■

### 3. (Generalized) locally projective covers

A module  $P$  is called *locally projective* [Z1] in case it satisfies any of the following equivalent conditions: (a) if  $A$  and  $B$  are modules,  $g : A \rightarrow B$  is an epimorphism and  $f : P \rightarrow B$  is a homomorphism then for every finitely generated (cyclic) submodule  $P_0$  of  $P$  there is a homomorphism  $h : P \rightarrow A$  such that  $f|_{P_0} = gh|_{P_0}$ ; (b) if  $M$  is a module and  $f : M \rightarrow$

$P$  is an epimorphism then for every finitely generated (cyclic) submodule  $P_0$  of  $P$  there is a homomorphism  $g : P \rightarrow M$  such that  $fg|_{P_0} = 1_{P_0}$ . Clearly, every finitely generated (even countably generated [A1]) locally projective module is projective. The following facts are also known and we shall freely use them without reference (for the proofs, see [Z1] and [A1]): (1) a direct sum of modules is locally projective if and only if each summand is locally projective; (2) a pure submodule of a locally projective module is locally projective; and (3) if  $P$  is a locally projective module, then (i)  $P$  is flat, (ii)  $\text{Rad}(P) = JP$ , and (iii) if  $\text{Rad}(P) = P$  then  $P = 0$ .

A (generalized) cover  $f : P \rightarrow M$  is called a (*generalized*) *locally projective cover* in case  $P$  is a locally projective module. Since any cover is a generalized cover, a locally projective cover is a generalized locally projective cover. According to the facts of locally projective modules and Lemmas 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, we have the following three lemmas.

**Lemma 3.1.** *If  $f : P \rightarrow M$  is a (generalized) locally projective cover and  $g : M \rightarrow N$  is a (generalized) cover then  $gf : P \rightarrow N$  is a (generalized) locally projective cover.*

**Lemma 3.2.** (1) *If each  $f_i : P_i \rightarrow M_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) is a locally projective cover then  $\oplus_{i=1}^n f_i : \oplus_{i=1}^n P_i \rightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^n M_i$  is a locally projective cover.*

(2) *If each  $f_i : P_i \rightarrow M_i$  ( $i \in I$ ) is a generalized locally projective cover then  $\oplus_{i \in I} f_i : \oplus_{i \in I} P_i \rightarrow \oplus_{i \in I} M_i$  is a generalized locally projective cover.*

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $f : P \rightarrow M$  be a locally projective cover. If  $M$  is a finitely generated module then  $P$  is a finitely generated projective module.*

The following proposition is an analogous result of [A2, Proposition 1].

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $f : P \rightarrow M$  be a generalized locally projective cover. If  $g : Q \rightarrow M$  is a projective cover where  $Q$  is finitely generated then there is an isomorphism  $h : P \cong Q$  such that  $f = gh$ .*

*Proof:* Let  $Q = \sum_{i=1}^n Rq_i$ . Then  $f(p_i) = g(q_i)$  for some  $p_i \in P$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). Since  $P_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n Rp_i$  is a finitely generated submodule of  $P$  there is a homomorphism  $h : P \rightarrow Q$  such that  $f|_{P_0} = gh|_{P_0}$ . Now  $g(q_i) = f(p_i) = gh(p_i)$ , so  $q_i - h(p_i) \in \text{Ker}(g)$  and we have  $Q = h(P_0) + \text{Ker}(g)$ . But  $\text{Ker}(g) \ll Q$  we obtain  $h(P_0) = Q$ , so  $h(P) = Q$  and  $h$  is an epimorphism. Since  $Q$  is projective,  $h$  splits. Let  $K = \text{Ker}(h) \subseteq \text{Ker}(f)$  and  $P = K \oplus K'$  for some  $K' \leq P$ . Since  $f : P \rightarrow M$  is

a generalized locally projective cover, we have  $\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq JP$  and then  $K \subseteq JP = JK \oplus JK'$ . It follows that  $K = JK$ . Since  $K$  is locally projective, we get  $K = 0$ , i.e.,  $h$  is a monomorphism. Thus  $h$  is an isomorphism. ■

Recall that  $R$  is *semiperfect* if  $R/J$  is semisimple and idempotents lift modulo  $J$ . It is known that  $R$  is semiperfect if and only if every simple (finitely generated, cyclic) left  $R$ -module has a projective cover (see, e.g. [AF, Theorem 27.6]). Azumaya [A2, Theorem 3] generalized this and proved that if every simple left  $R$ -module has a generalized projective cover then  $R$  is semiperfect. Modifying his proof we generalize his theorem as follows.

**Theorem 3.5.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  *$R$  is semiperfect.*
- (2) *Every simple left  $R$ -module has a locally projective cover.*
- (3) *Every simple left  $R$ -module has a generalized locally projective cover.*

*Proof:* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). These are clear.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). To show  $\overline{R} = R/J$  is semisimple, we only need to prove each simple left  $\overline{R}$ -module  $S$  is locally projective (since a simple locally projective module is projective). We regard  $S$  as a simple left  $R$ -module, so there is a generalized locally projective cover  $f : P \rightarrow S$ , where  $\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P) = JP$ . Since  $\text{Ker}(f)$  is a maximal submodule of  $P$  we must have  $\text{Ker}(f) = JP$  and so  $P/JP \cong S$ . Since  $P$  is a locally projective  $R$ -module,  $P/JP$  is a locally projective  $\overline{R}$ -module, so  $S$  is a locally projective  $\overline{R}$ -module. Therefore  $\overline{R}$  is semisimple.

Let  $\varepsilon$  be an idempotent of  $\overline{R}$ . We want to show that  $\varepsilon$  can be lifted to an idempotent of  $R$ , so we may assume that  $\varepsilon \neq \overline{0}$  and  $\varepsilon \neq \overline{1}$ . Then both  $\overline{R}\varepsilon$  and  $\overline{R}(\overline{1} - \varepsilon)$  are non-zero left ideals of the semisimple ring  $\overline{R}$ . Let  $\overline{R}\varepsilon = S_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus S_k$  and  $\overline{R}(\overline{1} - \varepsilon) = S_{k+1} \oplus \cdots \oplus S_n$  be direct sums of simple left ideals  $S_i$ 's. We view  $S_i$  as a simple left  $R$ -module and let  $f_i : P_i \rightarrow S_i$  be a generalized locally projective cover ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). Then

$$f = \oplus_{i=1}^n f_i : P = \oplus_{i=1}^n P_i \rightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^n S_i$$

is a generalized locally projective cover by Lemma 3.2. Since the natural epimorphism  $g : R \rightarrow \overline{R}$  is a projective cover, by Proposition 3.4 there is an isomorphism  $h : P \rightarrow R$  such that  $f = gh$ . Let  $L = h(P_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus P_k)$  and  $L' = h(P_{k+1} \oplus \cdots \oplus P_n)$ . Then  $L$  and  $L'$  are left ideals of  $R$  and

$R = L \oplus L'$ . Let  $L = Re$  and  $L' = Re'$  for some idempotents  $e$  and  $e'$  of  $R$  with  $e + e' = 1$ . Let  $\bar{e} = g(e) \in \bar{R}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{R}\bar{e} &= g(Re) = g(L) = gh(P_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus P_k) = f(P_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus P_k) \\ &= f_1(P_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus f_k(P_k) = S_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus S_k = \bar{R}\varepsilon.\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if we let  $\bar{e}' = g(e') \in \bar{R}$  then  $\bar{R}\bar{e}' = \bar{R}(\bar{1} - \varepsilon)$ . Now  $\bar{1} = g(1) = g(e + e') = \bar{e} + \bar{e}'$ . By [AF, Proposition 7.2] we must have  $\varepsilon = \bar{e}$ , i.e.,  $\varepsilon$  can be lifted to the idempotent  $e \in R$ . ■

**Corollary 3.6.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  *$R$  is semiperfect.*
- (2) *Every finitely generated (cyclic) left  $R$ -module has a locally projective cover.*
- (3) *Every finitely generated (cyclic) left  $R$ -module has a generalized locally projective cover.*

Next we characterize semiperfect modules using locally projective covers, but we need a lemma first.

**Lemma 3.7.** *If a module  $M$  has a generalized locally projective cover then (1)  $\text{Rad}(M) = JM$ ; and (2)  $M$  has a maximal submodule if  $M \neq 0$ .*

*Proof:* Let  $f : P \rightarrow M$  be a generalized locally projective cover. Then  $\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P) = JP$ . By [AF, Proposition 9.15], we have  $\text{Rad}(M) = f(\text{Rad}(P)) = f(JP) = J(f(P)) = JM$ . If  $M \neq 0$ , then  $P \neq 0$  and  $\text{Rad}(P) \neq P$ . So  $P$  has a maximal submodule  $U$ . Since  $\text{Ker}(f) \subseteq \text{Rad}(P) \subseteq U$ ,  $f(U)$  must be a maximal submodule of  $f(P) = M$ . ■

**Proposition 3.8.** *A module  $M$  is semiperfect if and only if  $M$  has a projective cover and every factor module of  $M$  has a locally projective cover.*

*Proof:* ( $\Rightarrow$ ). This is obvious.

( $\Leftarrow$ ). Let  $U$  be a proper submodule of  $M$ . Then  $M/U$  is a non-zero factor module of  $M$ . By Lemma 3.7,  $M/U$  has a maximal submodule. This means that  $U$  is contained in a maximal submodule of  $M$ . By assumption, every simple factor module of  $M$  has a locally projective cover which is a projective cover by Lemma 3.3. Hence  $M$  is semiperfect by [A2, Theorems 4 and 6]. ■



**Corollary 3.9.** *A projective module  $M$  is semiperfect if and only if every factor module of  $M$  has a locally projective cover.*

Recall that  $R$  is *left perfect* if every left  $R$ -module has a projective cover. An interesting characterization of left perfect rings was presented in [AF, Theorem 28.4] which was due to Bass [B]. Now we characterize left perfect rings using (generalized) locally projective covers.

**Theorem 3.10.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  *$R$  is left perfect.*
- (2) *Every left  $R$ -module has a locally projective cover.*
- (3) *Every left  $R$ -module has a generalized locally projective cover.*

*Proof:* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). These are clear.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). By Theorem 3.5 or Corollary 3.6,  $R$  is semiperfect. By Lemma 3.7, every non-zero left  $R$ -module has a maximal submodule. Hence  $R$  is left perfect by [AF, Theorem 28.4]. ■

It is known that if every semisimple left  $R$ -module has a projective cover then  $R$  is left perfect. We do not know whether the condition “projective cover” can be weakened to “locally projective cover”.

Azumaya [A2, Theorem 1] showed that a flat module having a generalized projective cover is projective. An analogous result for locally projective modules is the following

**Proposition 3.11.** *If  $M$  is a flat module having a generalized locally projective cover then  $M$  is locally projective.*

*Proof:* Let  $f : P \rightarrow M$  be a generalized locally projective cover and  $K = \text{Ker}(f)$ . Then  $K \subseteq \text{Rad}(P) = JP$ . By [AF, Lemma 19.18]  $K$  is a pure submodule of  $P$ , so  $K$  is also locally projective and  $JK = K \cap JP \supseteq K$ . We get  $K = JK$ , and so  $K = 0$ . Hence  $P \cong M$  and  $M$  is locally projective. ■

As pointed out by Zimmermann-Huisgen in [Z2, p. 60],  $R$  is left perfect if and only if every flat left  $R$ -module is locally projective. Hence by Proposition 3.11 we obtain

**Corollary 3.12.** *A ring  $R$  is left perfect if and only if every flat left  $R$ -module has a (generalized) locally projective cover.*

Camillo and Xue [CX] called a ring  $R$  *left quasi-perfect* in case every artinian left  $R$ -module has a projective cover, and showed that the class

of left quasi-perfect rings lies strictly between that of left perfect rings and that of semiperfect rings. It was proved in [CX, Theorem 1] that a semiperfect ring  $R$  is left quasi-perfect if and only if every non-zero artinian left  $R$ -module has a maximal submodule (has finite length, is finitely generated). Now we characterize left quasi-perfect rings using (generalized) locally projective covers.

**Theorem 3.13.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is left quasi-perfect.
- (2) Every artinian left  $R$ -module has a locally projective cover.
- (3) Every artinian left  $R$ -module has a generalized locally projective cover.

*Proof:* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). These are clear.

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Since simple modules are artinian,  $R$  is semiperfect by Theorem 3.5. By (3) and Lemma 3.7, we see that every non-zero artinian left  $R$ -module has a maximal submodule. Hence  $R$  is left quasi-perfect by [CX, Theorem 1]. ■

A module  $M$  is called *strongly artinian* [CX2] in case every proper submodule of  $M$  has finite length. Clearly a strongly artinian module is artinian, but the converse is false. Cai and Xue [CX2, Theorem 4] proved that a semiperfect ring  $R$  is left quasi-perfect if and only if every (non-zero) strongly artinian left  $R$ -module has a projective cover (has a maximal submodule). Using these results and modifying the proof of Theorem 3.13 we have our concluding result.

**Theorem 3.14.** *The following three statements are equivalent for a ring  $R$ .*

- (1)  $R$  is left quasi-perfect.
- (2) Every strongly artinian left  $R$ -module has a locally projective cover.
- (3) Every strongly artinian left  $R$ -module has a generalized locally projective cover.

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